

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS ALL NATO CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR NATO
SUBJ: NATO SUMMIT: RECOMMENDATION FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS AT CHIEFS
OF STATE/HEADS OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL

1. ELABORATING ON HIS PROPOSAL FOR MORE FREQUENT
CONSULTATIONS AMONG NATO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT (SEPTTEL),
TRUDEAU SAID POLITICAL LEADERS MUST ADDRESS AND DISCUSS
AMONG THEMSELVES THE MANY DEFENSE ISSUES TOO FREQUENTLY
LEFT TO THE MILITARY. SUCH ISSUES AS FORCE LEVEL
REVIEW, TYPES OF WAR NATO IS GEARING UP TO FIGHT,
RELATIVE PROPORTIONS OF CANADIAN DEFENSE BUDGET SPENT
ON NORAD, PEACE-KEEPING, DEFENSE OF CANADIAN
TERRITORY, IDENTIFICATION OF FLASH POINTS, TAC NUC
EMPLOYMENT, NEED TO BE EXAMINED AT HIGHEST POLITICAL
LEVEL TO PERMIT POLITICAL LEADERS TO CONVEY GUIDANCE
TO MILITARY COMMANDERS THAT WILL ENJOY PUBLIC SUPPORT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO TRUDEAU'S SUGGESTION, THE PRESIDENT
AGREED EMPHATICALLY AND RECOMMENDED THERE BE REGULAR,
SCHEDULED HEADS-OF-GOVERNMENT MEETINGS ON AN ANNUAL
BASIS, WELL PREPARED IN ADVANCE BY FOREIGN MINISTERS.
SCHEDULING SUCH CONSULTATIONS REGULARLY, THE
PRESIDENT SAID, WOULD DOWNGRADE THE "SUMMIT" ASPECT,
WHICH SCHMIDT HAD NOTED RAISES EXPECTATIONS IN PUBLIC
OPINION AND GIVES TOO FORMAL, STRUCTURED CAST TO

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MEETINGS. (SCHMIDT HAD DRAWN ATTENTION TO PERIODIC

EC HEADS-OF-GOVERNMENT MEETINGS WHICH BY THEIR PRIVATE, UNDRAMATIC NATURE, HAD PROVEN VERY USEFUL TO LEADERS.) THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED THAT RECOMMENDATION FOR HIGH LEVEL ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS BE INCLUDED IN COMMUNIQUE.

3. WHEN SAUVAGNARGUES SAID FRANCE COULD NOT ACCEPT ITS INCLUSION IN COMMUNIQUE, THERE ENSUED CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ENDING IN LUNS' DECISION TO LEAVE IT OUT. THE PRESIDENT SUBSEQUENTLY REITERATED HIS STRONG SUPPORT FOR TRUDEAU'S RECOMMENDATION, NOTING THAT HE WAS MORE INTERESTED IN SUBSTANCE THAN COMMUNIQUE, THOUGH ITS INCLUSION WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN COMMUNICATING THE IDEA. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO NEED TO ARGUE OVER COMMUNIQUE, THEREBY DISRUPTING THE HEALTHY ATMOSPHERE OF THE SUMMIT.

4. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION AMONG LEADERS, SCHMIDT SAID HE WAS IN FAVOR BUT REGISTERED HIS INTERPRETATION THAT RECOMMENDATION IS NOT OFFICIAL AND FORESEES INFORMAL MEETINGS. SAUVAGNARQUES NOTED IDEA NEVER PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED AND WAS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION DESERVING CAREFUL STUDY. IF INFORMAL MEETINGS ARE HELD OUTSIDE NAC FRAMEWORK, EACH COUNTRY TAKES ITS OWN DECISION, BUT SAUVAGNARQUES COULD NOT UNDERSTAND NECESSITY TO DECIDE NOW ON REGULAR MEETINGS. IN SUM, HE COULD GIVE NO REACTION, EITHER FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE.

5. LATER, IN SUMMING UP, LUNS NOTED THAT LEADERS HAD AGREED TO REFLECT ON UTILITY OF MORE PERIODIC HEADS-OF-GOVERNMENT MEETINGS IN "SOME FORM OR ANOTHER," AND TO EXPLORE METHODS, FORMAL AND INFORMAL, TO ORGANIZE SUCH MEETINGS.

6. SUGGESTION BY I.S. TO INCLUDE REFERENCE TO DESIRABILITY OF REGULAR HEADS-OF -GOVERNMENT MEETINGS IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE WAS DISCUSSED AND THEN DISCARDED.
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NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ALL NATO CAPITALS.

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